15th July 1953]

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) From 1st April 1949, Village Munsifs (in ryotwari and proprietary areas) of villages lying beyond a radius of five miles from the jamabandi camp are being granted a jamabandi allowance of Re. 1 each for one day only.

" (*b*) The total expenditure incurred during the year 1951–52 on account of payment of Fixed Travelling Allowance and Jamabandi allowances to the village officers in ryotwari and proprietary areas amounted to Rs. 3,45,483. Information regarding the amount paid to village munsifs alone is not readily available. This information has to be gathered and compiled for each district. The work will involve considerable time and labour in several offices and will not be commensurate with the purpose served.

" (*c*) There are no such proposals at present under consideration of this Government."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" Sir, may I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that mamools are being paid to the Jamabandi staff by the village officers and I wish to know what steps the Hon. Minister for Revenue has taken to prevent corruption among the Jamabandi staff? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" This question has nothing to do with corruption among the Jamabandi staff. The hon. Member can give notice of a separate question."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" Sir, may I know whether the Government are convinced that these allowances are sufficient for meeting the legitimate expenses incurred by these village officials and, if not, will the Government consider paying them sufficient allowances to cover their expenditure?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, the Government are meeting the expenses half-way."

Minimum wages for agricultural labour.

* 480 *Q*.—SRI P. SHYAM SUNDAR RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) on what basis the Government propose to fix the minimum wage for agricultural labour ; and

(*b*) whether the Government have received representations and memoranda from the interested associations?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) On the basis of a provisional Schedule of rates of wages drawn up after a survey of the low wage pocket areas of the State.

" (*b*) The provisional schedule was published for suggestions or objections from persons interested. Representations or memoranda have since been received by the Government and are being examined."

[15th July 1953

SRI G. RAMA RAO :—" Sir, may I know how long the Government will take over this matter?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, this has got to be fixed before the 31st December 1953 and I daresay we shall finish our investigations in a month at the latest."

SRI V. SRI KRISHNA :—" Sir, are the Government aware of the fact that the rates fixed by the Government are lower than the rates at present paid for agricultural labour in the villages?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" As I said, we have invited representations and I am sure the hon. Member has put his suggestions to the Committee to show that the rates proposed are lower than the existing rates. The Government will consider all representations and come to a final decision."

Legislation for fixing minimum wages for agricultural labour.

* 481 *Q.*—SRI G. LATCHANNA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are contemplating to bring in a legislation fixing minimum wages for agricultural labour and minimum prices for agricultural products; and

(*b*) if so, when the legislation will be brought in?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) The Government are taking action, in pursuance of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (Central Act XI of 1948), to fix Minimum Wages for Agricultural labour. No other legislation is necessary.

" With regard to control of prices of foodstuffs, I am afraid the hon. Member will have to put a separate question to the Hon. Minister for Food.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Arising from the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I know, Sir, what action has been taken by the Government?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, the Economic Adviser to the Government has investigated 24 pockets which he thought were low wage pockets and the Government have come to certain conclusions which have been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. We have asked associations and individuals interested to send their views on this notification. The Commissioner of Labour and the Government are examining them and as soon as we have finished with them, we will publish our decisions."

* 482 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" This question will be taken up to-morrow."